Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-12.   Canceled

13.   (New) A method for setting a dominant color to describe a given image region by using at least one dominant color that represent the given image region and a spatial coherency (SC) on at least one dominant color, the method comprising:

comparing the spatial coherency with a predetermined threshold; and

non-uniformly quantizing the spatial coherency by mapping a quantized spatial coherency (QSC) corresponding to the spatial coherency, based on the comparison between the spatial coherency and the predetermined threshold.

14.   (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the spatial coherency is normalized from 0 to 1 and the threshold is 0.70.

15.   (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the spatial coherency is quantized by 1 bit, and wherein the QSC becomes zero ($QSC = 0$) if the spatial coherency is smaller than the

threshold 0.70, while the QSC becomes 1 (QSC =1) if the spatial coherency is greater than the

threshold 0.70.

16.   (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the threshold includes the first threshold

of 0.62 and the second threshold of 0.70.

17.   (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the spatial coherency is quantized by 2

bits or more, and wherein the QSC becomes zero (QSC = 0) if the spatial coherency is smaller

than the first threshold 0.62 (SC < 0.62); the QSC becomes 1 (QSC =1) if the spatial coherency

is greater than or equal to the first threshold 0.62 and smaller than the second threshold 0.70

$(0.62 \leq SC < 0.70)$; and an uniform quantization is applied to a region having the spatial

coherency from 0.70 to 1 if the spatial coherency is greater than or equal to 0.7 $(0.70 \leq SC)$.

18.   (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the uniform quantization of the

quantized spatial coherency (QSC) is performed based on the following formula:

$$(QSC) = (int) \ [(SC - 0.7)/(1.0 - 0.7) \times (2.0^{SC\_BIT} - 3.0) + 0.5] + 2$$

wherein SC_BIT is a number of bits assigned to the quantization.

19.   (New) A method for setting a dominant color to describe a given image region by using at least one dominant color that represents the given image region and a spatial coherency (SC) on said at least one dominant color, the method comprising:

comparing the spatial coherency with a predetermined threshold; and

non-uniformly quantizing the spatial coherency by mapping a quantized spatial coherency (QSC) corresponding to the spatial coherency, based on the comparison between the spatial coherency and the predetermined threshold, wherein the spatial coherency is normalized from 0 to 1 and the threshold is 0.70, wherein if the spatial coherency is smaller than the threshold 0.70, a quantization value on the corresponding spatial coherency is mapped into '1', and for a region having the spatial coherency between 0.70 and 1, a uniform quantization is applied as many as a number of remaining quantization.

20.   (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the uniform quantization of the quantized spatial coherency (QSC) is performed based on the following formula:

$$(QSC) = (int) \, [(SC - 0.7)/(1.0 - 0.7) \times (2.0^{\,SC\_BIT} - 2.0) + 0.5] + 2$$

wherein, SC_BIT is a number of bits assigned to the quantization.